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TO: EXAMINER BAO VU

COMPANY: U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

FAX NO: 703-872-9306

DATE: March 3, 2004

FROM: Patrick J. O'Shea

RE: Serial No. 10/089,425

NO. OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 3 pgs

REMARKS:

Please see attached. Regards.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Stefan Eder

GROUP: 2838

INTERNATIONAL
APPLN. NO.: PCT/DE00/01737

EXAMINER: Bao Q. Vu

SERIAL NO: 10/089,425

INTERNATIONAL
FILING DATE: 29 May 2000FOR: CIRCUIT COMPRISING AN INTEGRATED SWITCHING CIRCUIT
AND A VOLTAGE REGULATING CIRCUITCommissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

On March 3, 2004 Examiner Vu and the undersigned attorney conducted a telephone interview to discuss the Official Action dated February 12, 2004 – made final, the cited prior art and the pending claims. No agreement was reached. The undersigned attorney acknowledges and thanks the Examiner for the interview. However, we hereby request reconsideration since it is respectfully submitted the current rejection of the claims is improper for the reasons set forth in the previous Amendment filed by the applicant.

Claims 1-3 and 8-12 currently stand rejected for allegedly being anticipated by the subject matter disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,216,351 to Shimoda (hereinafter “Shimoda”). Shimoda simply

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I hereby certify that this Request for Reconsideration (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted by facsimile on March 3, 2004 to the Commissioner of Patents, Attn: Examiner Bao Q. Vu at 703-872-9306.


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discloses a voltage regulator that includes a switching regulator block 11 and a succeeding series regulator block 10, which are integrated onto one chip (see col. 2, lines 1-6). Blocks 10, 11 disclosed in Shimoda are both regulators – and neither of the blocks 10 or 11 is specified as a voltage regulator. The Official Action states block 10 of Shimoda is voltage regulator (Official Action, pg. 2), but the wording of Shimoda simply refers to block 10 as a “*series regulator block*”. There is no contention of record in the present Official Action or the previous Official Action alleging that the “*series regulator block 10*” disclosed in Shimoda is a voltage regulator. In contrast, the circuit recited in claim 1 includes a *voltage* regulator circuit AND a switching circuit.

Claim 8 is patentable for at least the same reasons as set forth above. In addition, claim 8 recites that a voltage regulating circuit provides a regulated voltage signal to a switching regulator. In Shimoda, the switching regulator 11 provides a signal to the series regulator block 10 (see FIG. 1). Accordingly, the structure of Shimoda is clearly incapable of anticipating the subject matter of claim 8.

A 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection requires that a single reference teach each and every element of the claimed invention. Again, Shimoda neither discloses nor suggests a voltage regulator in combination with a switching circuit as recited in claims 1 and 8. In addition, Shimoda also fails to disclose a voltage regulating circuit that provides a regulated voltage signal to a switching regulator as recited in claim 8. Hence, Shimoda is incapable of anticipating the claimed invention.

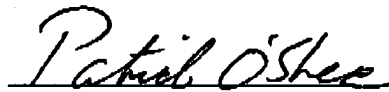
The allowance of claims 4-7 is noted and appreciated.

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For all the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3 and 8-12 is respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview could assist in the prosecution of this application, please call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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